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Agenda item 19

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Report of the Social Committee

1. The Social Committee considered the question of advancement of women (agenda item 19) at its 1st to 9th meetings, from 7 to 14 July 1993. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its twelfth session (A/48/38, Supp. No. 38); 1/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/48/187-E/1993/76);

(c) Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-seventh session (E/1993/27 and Corr.1); 2/

(d) Note by the Secretariat on the proposed system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001 (E/1993/43);

(e) Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its thirteenth session (E/1993/44);

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth session, Supplement No. 38 (A/48/38).

2/ To be issued as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 7 (E/1993/27 and Corr.1).

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development (E/1993/51);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General on the Task Force on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (E/1993/82).

2. At its 1st to 6th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on the item. At its 1st meeting, on 7 July, the Committee heard introductory statements by the Deputy-Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

3. At the 2nd meeting, on 8 July, an introductory statement was made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Turkey, Belgium (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community) and the Bahamas and the observers for New Zealand (on behalf also of Australia and Canada), Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic countries) and the Dominican Republic.

5. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organization made statements. The observer for Zonta International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I, also made a statement.

6. At the 3rd meeting, on 8 July, statements were made by the representatives of Canada and Chile.

7. At the 4th meeting, on 9 July, statements were made by the representatives of Austria, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America, China, Belarus, Japan, Benin and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

8. At the same meeting, the observers for the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I, made statements.

9. At the 5th meeting, on 12 July, statements were made by the representatives of Kuwait, Bangladesh, Morocco, Ukraine, Cuba and Poland and the observers for Namibia and New Zealand.

10. At the 6th meeting, on 12 July, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico and the Philippines.

11. At the same meeting, the Deputy-Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women made concluding statements.

Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-seventh session

12. Chapter I of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-seventh session (E/1993/27 and Corr.1) contained seven draft resolutions and two draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council. Nine resolutions of the Commission were brought to the attention of the Council.

13. At the 6th meeting, on 12 July, the Chairman informed the Committee that draft resolutions I to VI and draft decisions I and II contained in the report had no programme budget implications.

Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

14. At the 6th meeting, on 12 July, the Committee adopted draft resolution I, entitled "Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat" (see para. 39 below, draft resolution I).

Draft declaration on the elimination of violence against women

15. At the 6th meeting, on 12 July, following a statement by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Committee adopted draft resolution II, entitled "Draft declaration on the elimination of violence against women" (see para. 39 below, draft resolution II).

16. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a further statement.

Communications on the status of women

17. At the 6th meeting, on 12 July, the Committee adopted draft resolution III, entitled "Communications on the status of women" (see para. 39 below, draft resolution III).

Women, environment and development

18. At the 6th meeting, on 12 July, the Committee adopted draft resolution IV, entitled "Women, environment and development" (see para. 39 below, draft resolution IV).

Women and children under apartheid

19. At the 6th meeting, on 12 July, the Committee adopted draft resolution V, entitled "Women and children under apartheid" (see para. 39 below, draft resolution V).

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

20. At the 6th meeting, on 12 July, the Committee adopted draft resolution VI, entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" (see para. 39 below, draft resolution VI).

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

21. At the 6th meeting, on 12 July, the Committee decided to postpone taking action on draft resolution VII, entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women".

22. At the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement.

23. At the 9th meeting, on 14 July, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

24. At the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

25. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution by a recorded vote of 31 to 1, with 11 abstentions (see para. 39 below, draft resolution VII). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belarus, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Poland, Romania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

26. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-seventh session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission

27. At the 6th meeting, on 12 July, the Committee adopted draft decision I, entitled "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-seventh session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission" (see para. 40 below, draft decision I).

Inter-sessional working group of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace

28. At the 6th meeting, on 12 July, following a statement by the Secretary, the Committee adopted draft decision II, entitled "Inter-sessional working

group of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace" (see para. 40 below, draft decision II).

29. After the adoption of the draft decision, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a statement.

Other proposals

System-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women

30. At the 7th meeting, on 13 July, the representative of Australia, on behalf also of Argentina, the Bahamas, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, 3/ New Zealand, 3/ Norway and Sweden, 3/ introduced a draft resolution (E/1993/C.2/L.2), entitled "System-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women".

31. At the same meeting, the Chairman informed the Committee that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications. The Committee then adopted the draft resolution (see para. 39 below, draft resolution VIII).

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

32. At the 8th meeting, on 13 July, the representative of Argentina, on behalf also of Angola, Australia, the Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, 3/ Mexico, New Zealand, 3/ Norway, Peru, Romania, Spain, Uruguay 3/ and Venezuela, 3/ introduced a draft resolution (E/1993/C.2/L.3), entitled "International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women".

33. At the same meeting, the Chairman informed the Committee that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

34. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Kuwait made a statement.

35. The Committee then adopted the draft resolution (see para. 39 below, draft resolution IX).

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women

36. At the 8th meeting, on 13 July, the Chairman read out the following draft decision, entitled "International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women":

> "The Committee takes note with appreciation of the note by the Secretary-General (E/1993/82) transmitting the report of the Task Force on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women and concurs

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3/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

with the recommendation to merge those two organizations in pursuance of a stronger, more unified programme for the advancement of women, stressing the need to take full account of the recommendations listed in paragraph 13 of the report, in particular the need for a proper analysis of the legal, financial and administrative implications."

37. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Cuba, Mexico and Argentina. The Committee then decided to postpone taking action on the draft decision.

38. At the same meeting, the Chairman, on the basis of informal consultations, orally revised the draft decision, which the Committee then adopted (see para. 40 below, draft decision III).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

39. The Social Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

[FOR THE TEXT OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS I-VII, SEE THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (E/1993/27), CHAP. I, SECT. A]

DRAFT RESOLUTION VIII

System-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1988/59 of 27 July 1988, by which it requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to initiate the formulation of a system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001,

Having considered the note by the Secretariat containing the proposed system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001, 4/

Convinced that a system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women can enhance coordination among the organizations of the United Nations system by providing a framework for including advancement of women in individual medium-term plans and programme statements,

Bearing in mind that the United Nations planning cycle to which the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women was matched has changed and that there has been a general shift to a more strategic form of planning,

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4/ E/1993/43.

Recognizing that the Platform for Action to emerge from the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace cannot be reflected in the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001, which must be approved in 1993,

1. Endorsed the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001 as a general framework for the coordination of system-wide efforts, as revised in terms of the comments found in the annex to resolution 37/1 of 24 March 1993 of the Commission on the Status of Women; 5/

2. Requests the organizations of the United Nations system that are preparing medium-term plans for the period 1996-2001 to incorporate relevant aspects of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women in formulating aspects of their individual plans in terms of advancement of women;

3. Also requests the organizations of the United Nations system, when implementing the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, to take account of the importance of ensuring that humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and refugee programmes provide for the health needs of women and for their protection from violence and sexual abuse, especially in emergency and conflict situations,

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to arrange for a revision of the system-wide medium-term plan after the Platform for Action and the second review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 6/ have been formulated and adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace;

5. Further requests the Secretary-General to ensure that any revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women be more concise, take account of the changes in the United Nations planning cycle, take a more strategic approach, highlighting policy implications, and include more substantial strategies, time-frames, concrete measures, resources and allocation of responsibility for implementation;

6. Decides that the Commission on the Status of Women, together with the Committee for Programme and Coordination, should be given responsibility for monitoring progress on the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women and that all United Nations entities should be held accountable for the components of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women that fall within their areas of responsibility.

5/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 7 (E/1993/27), chap. I, sect. C.

6/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IX

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1992/21 of 30 July 1992, in which it took note of the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its twelfth session, 7/

Having considered the report of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on its thirteenth session, 8/

Recognizing the important role that the Institute could play in the substantive preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace,

Also recognizing the equally important contributions that the Institute could make in its area of expertise to activities related to the International Year of the Family, the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Social Development,

Reaffirming the continuing need for independent research and related training activities for the advancement of women and the role of the Institute therein,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its thirteenth session and the decisions contained therein; 8/

2. Commends the Institute for activities carried out that contribute to mainstreaming gender in development strategies and the appraisal of the contribution of women to social and economic development, particularly in relation to the informal sector;

3. Expresses its appreciation of the fact that the Institute maintains and seeks ways to strengthen its mode of operation, for example, by networking, particularly with the regional commissions and the focal points of the Institute, thereby ensuring effective outreach and coordination in order to empower and strengthen the position of women at the national and regional levels;

4. Requests the Institute to assist in the substantive preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, given its essential role in research, training and statistical expertise;

7/ E/1992/18.

8/ E/1993/44.

5. Further requests the Institute to contribute, within its area of expertise, to the activities relevant to the International Year of the Family, the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Social Development;

6. Reiterates the importance of maintaining the level of resources devoted to independent research and related training activities which are crucial for the situation of women;

7. Calls upon States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute, through voluntary contributions and pledges, to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, thus enabling the Institute to continue to respond effectively to its mandate.

40. The Social Committee also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

[FOR THE TEXT OF DRAFT DECISIONS I AND II, SEE THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (E/1993/27), CHAP. I, SECT. B]

DRAFT DECISION III

United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women

The Economic and Social Council takes note with appreciation of the note by the Secretary-General 9/ transmitting the report of the Task Force on the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women and agrees that the recommendation to merge those two organizations in pursuance of a stronger, more unified programme for the advancement of women could proceed, subject to the recommendations set out in paragraph 13 of the report, in particular the need for a proper analysis of the legal, financial and administrative implications of the merger, and subject to consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

9/ E/1993/82.